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Florida's Safe Mobility for Life Coalition *~Observing National Older Driver Safety Awareness Week~*

TALLAHASSEE – Florida is home to more than 3.7 million adults over the age of 65, who in 2014 represented 20 percent of Florida's licensed driving population and 10 percent of all drivers in crashes. In 2030, the U.S. Census Bureau projects Florida's 65 years and older population to reach approximately 24 percent. The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition was created by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to help reduce the number of crashes while improving the safety, access, and mobility of Florida's aging road users. The statewide Coalition consists of representatives from FDOT and Florida State University's Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, along with 27 national, state, and local aging and safety organizations.

The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is a nationally recognized FDOT program and a 2015 National Roadway Safety Award winner for Program Planning, Development, and Evaluation. "Through collaboration and dedication the Coalition is addressing every aspect of transportation safety and mobility" said Mark C. Wilson, P.E., Director of the Office of Traffic Engineering and Operations. "Their comprehensive approach will ensure Florida's aging population can maintain independence and remain active within their communities even after they retire from driving."

The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) establishes Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (ODSAW) every year in December to promote the importance of older driver safety and mobility. The Coalition endorses AOTA's national efforts by promoting their safety and mobility information and resources to help Floridians remain safe and mobile as both drivers and non-drivers.

To help educate about ODSAW, events are planned and information is being shared across the state from December 7-11. This includes displaying safety and mobility tips at local driver license offices, CarFit safety events, social media messaging, promoting our "Tips for Talking with Aging Drivers about Safe Driving Concerns" brochure, "Florida's Guide for Aging Drivers", "Aging in Place Checklist", and a Safety is Golden Mobility Fair in Miami on Thursday, December 10.

The efforts of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition will continue beyond this week as they work together to develop and promote resources to benefit Florida's aging road users.

For more information visit: www.FLsams.org

Celebrating 100 Years of Innovation, Mobility and Economic Development